

10/710,955

**PATENT**

**REMARKS**

In this amendment, claims 1-22 and 44-54 are canceled, and claims 23 - 43 are presently amended. No claims have been cancelled. Applicants are amending the claims to more distinctly claim the invention and, in addition, have canceled the previously withdrawn claims in order to expedite the allowance of the pending claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications.

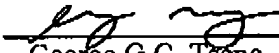
Applicants have also enclosed herewith a replacement page for the Abstract, having removed the title from same.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the amendments submitted herein, Applicant maintains that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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